

time. When the mounted animal allows the mounting animal to remain for about five seconds, a “standing mount” has occurred and the cow is classified as in standing heat. This condition occurs in the early stages of estrus. The most frequent mountings occur by bulls, but mountings are also made by other cows. Accordingly, the repeated mounting of a cow by any other such animal is a good indication that the cow is in heat.”

Page 1, paragraph 5: “A variety of prior art devices have been developed for indicating when an animal is in heat by showing when the animal has been mounted. Automatic indicators have been used that are attached to the top rear section of the animal between the hip-bone and spine and are set off by other animals mounting the animal in heat. Typically, the indicators rely on the pressure exerted by the chest or brisket of the mounting animal. A common indicator of this type includes a passive apparatus including a reservoir of marker fluid which is compressed by the mounting pressure to discharge some or all fluid and thereby mark the mounted animal. Frequently, these devices suffer from incidental seepage of the marker fluid. This can result in an undesirably short shelf-life of the product. Further, the prior art devices involve complicated dye packet devices that are undesirably complex and expensive.”

Page 3, paragraph 8: “The estrus indicator is made up of a plurality of layers. The indicator layer 12 is diagrammatically in the middle of the indicator 10. The indicator layer 12 has an adhesive 14 on its bottom side for attachment to the first animal. A floodcoat 16 is positioned on the top side of the indicator layer 12 to obscure the indicator layer 12 until the floodcoat 16 is removed. Prior to deployment of the indicator 10 on the first animal, a liner 18 is provided along the adhesive 14 and the floodcoat 16.”

Page 5, paragraph 1: "Figure 2 depicts an alternate embodiment of the invention wherein the indicator layer is a vinyl substrate or sheet 22. Preferably, the vinyl substrate or sheet 22 is manufactured of white flexible vinyl, which may alternatively be colored. If the vinyl substrate or sheet 22 is white, it is preferably inked or coated with a high-visibility pigment 24 that may be viewed from some distance and will not camouflage on any naturally-occurring color of heifer. Alternatively, the coating may be a colored coating, tint, or stain. The vinyl substrate or sheet 22 used in such an embodiment may be, for example, Fasson® 4 Mil White Flexible Vinyl TC/S730/50#SCK manufactured by Fasson Roll North America (www.fasson.com) dyed with Akzo Nobel SS BW6 Warm Red manufactured by Akzo Nobel Inks Corp. (Plymouth, Minnesota)."

Page 5, paragraph 2: "A rubber-based permanent adhesive 14 suitable for adhesion to the animal's hide is preferably applied to the hide-adhering surface of the vinyl indicator layer. This adhesive may, for example, be Fasson S730 as preloaded on Fasson Spec. #40087 vinyl."

Page 5, paragraph 3: "As seen in Figure 3, a plurality of indicators according to the present invention may optionally be configured not as individual units or pieces but as a single sheet 28. The single sheet 28 may be configured as a planar surface or may be rolled on a cylinder 30. The sheet may then be cut as desired to variable sizes and/or shapes. The sheet thus provides flexibility in the specific size of the indicators. A preferred embodiment of the present invention involves an apparatus for supplying a plurality of indicators wherein the indicators are provided on a single sheet 28. The single sheet 28 is rolled on a cylinder 30. The cylinder 30

thus produces a roll 32 of indicator sheets that may be unrolled and cut as needed. The resultant roll is an inexpensive way of providing a plurality of indicators sizeable to specific needs and providing a simple storage of space indicators.”

Page 5, paragraph 6: “When a heifer wearing the apparatus comes into heat, the heifer is likely to be mounted by other heifers from the herd. When another heifer mounts the heifer wearing the apparatus, the floodcoat adheres to the front of the mounting heifer, pulling the floodcoat off of the indicator layer. Alternately, if the floodcoat is not adhesive on its outer surface (i.e., it adheres only to the indicator layer), the friction caused by the mounting heifer may be expected to rub off the mask layer. The mounted heifer is left wearing the indicator layer, which is visible from a distance, thus indicating that the heifer is in heat. The heifer may then be separated from the herd for insemination or mating. The floodcoat may be removed from the mounting heifer by manual removal, solvent, shaving the area to which the mask is adhered, or any other suitable method.”

IN THE CLAIMS:



Please cancel claims 1, 5, and 6.

Please substitute amended claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 as provided below for the respective pending claim with the same number.